



# APIAM VET STUDENT NEWS

Edition 3: March 2019

## FROM YOUR EDITOR...

It was great to meet and chat to so many keen vet students at the Australasian Vet Students' Association conference in Melbourne in late January. Congratulations to the organising committee from Melbourne Uni for a superb job hosting this event. Many students learned about our Graduate Development program and also about the many Apiam practices where they could undertake clinical placements. I am always happy to help point you in the right direction so if you have a particular interest and would like to know which practice could best help you learn more, please contact me anytime.

In this edition, we hear from some of Apiam's vets who offer their top tips to help your transition into mixed rural practice.

Apiam's New Horizon Clinical Placement Scholarship is launched at JCU and Uni of Adelaide. If you think this financial support toward clinical placements in final year is helpful and would like to see it offered at your university, express your enthusiasm to me (vetstudents@apiam.com.au) so that we can bring more vet schools on board next year.

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animal health

### NEW HORIZONS CLINICAL PLACEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Apiam is offering financial assistance to a veterinary student for final year clinical placements undertaken in 2020

- Scholarship valued at up to \$1500.
- To assist with travel and accommodation expenses associated with undertaking clinical placement in an Apiam clinic.
- Introduces students and practices to each other ahead of applying for new graduate veterinarian vacancies.

## KEY DATES FOR JCU & ADELAIDE :

APPLICATIONS OPEN:	1 MAY, 2019
APPLICATIONS CLOSE:	31 MAY, 2019
INTERVIEWS:	THROUGHOUT JUNE
WINNER ANNOUNCED:	24 JUNE 2019

Info sessions at Roseworthy campus Thurs 28th March and at JCU in early May (TBC)

## HOW TO APPLY:

- Written application maximum 1200 words
- Demonstrate your interest, passion for and experience with production animals in rural Australia What do you hope to achieve in this field?
- You may include extracts from your CV and a reference if relevant
- Submit as a word document to: Dr Leisa Denaro BVSc leisa.denaro@apiam.com.au



# SURVIVE & THRIVE

Apiam vets offer their Top Ten Tips to help you sail through your transition into practice

1. **COMMON THINGS ARE COMMON.** It's been said a million times but it really is true. Rule in/out the easy stuff first before you go hunting for some rare immune mediated disorder.
2. **YOUR STETHOSCOPE IS YOUR FRIEND.** Dr Cara McDougall from Gympie Vet Services says "make sure you do a full exam regardless of presentation. Clients love it and it helps give you some thinking time. Thoracic auscultation makes people shut up and a rectal always breaks the ice!"
3. **BUY CHOCOLATE FOR YOUR NURSES. OFTEN.** In the very near future, your nurses WILL save you. Respect that they have operated that anaesthetic machine every day for the last year or more and they will have your back with that difficult client. Dr Mark Wheatley of Echuca Moama Vet Clinic advises "never underestimate the knowledge and experience of vet nurses".
4. **TAKE YOUR OWN PULSE!** Dr Dan McDougall of Gympie Vet Services says "In an emergency, if you panic you are no use to anybody least of all the animal you are trying to save. Slow down, think, use the knowledge you have and you will be fine".
5. **BACK YOURSELF** but don't try to change the world overnight. Dr Dan says "You will quickly realise that you know more than you give yourself credit for. Those biochem and physiol lectures will start to make sense and provide you with the answers you need". Your knowledge is as up to date as it can be....be willing to share it but be humble enough to respect the many years of practical "real life experience" that your colleagues will have.
6. **ADMIT WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW AND NEVER BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP.** Sure, do your homework and jump in and have a go but don't be arrogant and don't pretend – clients have great BS detectors! Dr Lucy Collins of Warrnambool Veterinary says "The client will respect you much more if you know your limits and refer to the brains trust when you need to"
7. **THE CLIENT KNOWS THEIR ANIMAL BETTER THAN YOU DO.** Listen carefully to their history and don't ignore subtle signs they have noticed no matter how trivial.
8. **FIND A TRUSTED MENTOR AND TALK TO THEM OFTEN.** Dr Gemma Chuck of Warrnambool Veterinary reinforces that "if something is bothering you with a case or your workload then it's best to talk about it with your supervisor. A problem shared is a problem halved and often what is a seemingly huge issue can be easily sorted if addressed early on."
9. **GET INVOLVED.** It's a great way to meet new friends and feel a part of your local community. Dr Gemma says "often social get-togethers in rural areas involve clients and colleagues so it's a good way of breaking the ice and making you feel more comfortable back at work".
10. **HAVE FUN!** Laugh at yourself. Dr Lucy once drove off with a farmer's fence hooked on her ute – she thought he was waving goodbye! Enjoy the rush of excitement and feelings of accomplishment when you do your first solo cow caesarian or save that snake bite dog. Enjoy and celebrate every small "win"!

## IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

**20 – 22 March 2019**

Australian Cattle Veterinarians Conference, Gold Coast, Qld  
Apiam is a sponsor of this event and we will have a stand in the trade display. Come and see what we can offer new grads and students

**1 May 2019**

Apiam New Horizons Scholarship  
New this year for students at James Cook University and University of Adelaide.

Applications open 1 May  
Contact [vetstudents@apiam.com.au](mailto:vetstudents@apiam.com.au) for details

**5 – 10 May 2019**

AVA Annual Conference  
Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre  
[conference.ava.com.au](http://conference.ava.com.au)

**Have an event you would like listed here?**

**Email details to [vetstudents@apiam.com.au](mailto:vetstudents@apiam.com.au)**

## Congratulations Irene Huang

Congratulations to Massey University vet student Irene Huang who won Apiam's trade show prize pack at the AVSC in January.



## CONNECT WITH US

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Visit [www.apiam.com.au](http://www.apiam.com.au)  
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